

# La Crosse FRO Accomplishment Highlights Report

## *Interjurisdictional Fisheries:*

### **Service's \$25K Will Accomplish \$400K of Stream Improvement in Vernon County Wisconsin**

08/19/2004



*Trout stream habitat will be improved in 8.3 miles of streams in Vernon County. Increased native trout production and recreational fishing opportunities due to improved trout habitat and water quality that includes: decreased water temperature, increased overhead cover and pool habitat, reduced sedimentation. Reduced erosion due to stabilized streambank and riparian corridor restored with warm season native grasses and forbs. This project is being conducted on*

*tributaries of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers and will improve water quality in these rivers and the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.*

Since 1996, the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office has been working with the Vernon County Land Conservation Office, Trout Unlimited and private landowners to restore fish habitat in the streams of Vernon County, Wis. This year's project has secured \$375,000 from partners to match \$25,000 funded through the Department of Interior's Cooperative Conservation Initiative Program. Private landowners are providing \$68,000 to help restore 8.3 miles of stream in the watershed. Instream habitat will be improved by installing rock weirs, LUNKERS (little underwater neighborhood keepers encompassing rheotactic salmonids) and weir/pools. Eroding banks will be stabilized by resloping, rip-rap, and seeding with native grasses and forbs. Native trout production and recreational fishing opportunities will improve due to improved trout habitat and water quality that includes: decreased water temperature, increased overhead cover and pool habitat and reduced sedimentation. Reduced erosion will improve water quality in the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers and the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

**Ann Runstrom**